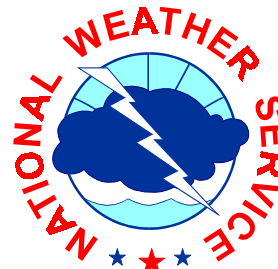


**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



FEBRUARY 8, 2002

The World arrives in Salt Lake City! 2002 Winter Olympics Begin!

REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Winter Olympics 2002 are upon us. The city has filled with buses, visitors, athletes, security personnel and more. WFO Salt Lake City staff are busy with their routine tasks, providing their best products and services to serve the community during this time. In addition, the five additional NWS forecasters arrived and are providing support 16 hours per day. The Weather Support Group, a partnership between the National Weather Service, KSL Television, and the University of Utah began support of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games on Sunday, February 3, 2002. The group will provide weather forecast services for the public, competitors, Olympic officials, and security interests. It is the first time in Olympic history that a partnership between government, private sector, and academia has been used to provide weather support. The team is off to a good start with the equipment, communications, and coordination working well. The big challenge this week is the forecast for the opening ceremonies on Friday evening, February 8, 2002.

From February 11 through February 22, due to the congestion in the city and surrounding areas, we have been advised to modify work hours at the Federal Building. Many WRH staff will begin work at 6:00 a.m. MST so they may get out of the city in the early afternoon, prior to street closure for evening Olympic-sponsored events. Each Division will have at least one person here until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you have any problems getting support during this time period, try the appropriate division chief or the Director's Office.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week's statement of the week is a Short Term Forecast written by intern John Denman of WFO Pendleton, OR. John did a nice job highlighting where the fog would be most dense with regard to travel routes, and went the extra mile noting the possibility of ice on the roads. Good work John.

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FOOTHILLS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS WA-

FOOTHILLS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS OR-LOWER COLUMBIA BASIN WA

LOWER COLUMBIA BASIN OR-

INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...WALLA WALLA...RICHLAND...PROSSER...

PASCO...KENNEWICK...DAYTON...CONNELL...PENDLETON...MILTON-

FREEWATER...HERMISTON...HEPPNER AND CONDON

402 AM PST TUE FEB 5 2002

.NOW...

AREAS OF FREEZING FOG WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HOURS. VISIBILITIES WILL REMAIN BELOW ONE MILE...WITH LESS THAN 1/4 MILE COMMON ALONG STATE HIGHWAY 11 BETWEEN PENDLETON AND WALLA WALLA. WITH TEMPERATURES BELOW FREEZING...PATCHES OF ICE MAY FORM ON ROADWAYS. MOTORISTS SHOULD USE EXTRA CAUTION THIS MORNING AND ALLOW EXTRA TIME TO REACH THEIR DESTINATION.

JSD

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National Lightning Safety Awareness Week (NLSAW): The second annual NLSAW will be April 28 to May 4, 2002. The emphasis this year is to improve the methods used to distribute lightning safety materials to WCMs, and to focus on getting lightning safety information into schools across the nation. The dates for this year's awareness week were moved up almost two months from last year in order to promote lightning safety while schools are still in session. Dave Toronto, WCM Salt Lake City, is on the national team helping to organize this year's NLSAW.

StormReady: NWS has a strategic goal to have at least one StormReady or TsunamiReady recognition in every state by October 1. WR should have no problem achieving that goal. StormReady task teams made up of volunteer WCMs (including seven from WR) are being organized to help with redesigning the highway signs, design a StormReady display, and develop other promotional items. On February 4, Minidoka County, Idaho, (WFO Pocatello) and five associated communities were recognized as being StormReady. Western Region now has 82 recognized counties and communities. The 2002 National StormReady Board meeting will take place August 6-7 in Seattle.

New Policy Directives: Former WSOM Chapters C-75 (Verification), D-06 (Fire Weather), and F-42 (Storm Data) have been converted into the new Policy Directives format are currently being reviewed by the regions. Chapter D-51 (Marine Services) is expected to be released in the new format soon. All WSOM chapters are to be converted to the new format this year.

Marine Meeting: WSH Marine Weather Services Branch will be conducting a series of "focus group" meetings with marine customers around the country this spring. The first of these meetings will be held February 7 in Astoria, Oregon. A variety of marine customer groups have been invited to hear about NWS's IFPS and plans for gridded marine forecasts. Customers will be asked for suggestions on ways NWS can improve its service to them. Tom Ainsworth, WR MSD, will be at the meeting in Astoria.

WR Spotter Video: Progress continues in making a video (actually a CD) to be used as an introduction at WR spotter training classes. An outline with text and video suggestions has been developed. Video editing hardware and software will soon be delivered to WFO Glasgow. Glasgow WCM Tanja Fransen has been receiving video clips from other WR WCMs showing various natural hazards common in the WR. The objective of the 10-minute presentation, originally proposed at the 2001 regional WCM Workshop, is to capture the audience's attention with weather scenes from around WR and the steps in making a spotter report. The rough first version of the CD should be available for field comment in early March.

Marine Product IDs: MSD is preparing a request to Data Review Group to update marine weather product IDs. The purpose of the request is to begin using WFO MAR IDs in the product header (e.g., MTR instead of SFO) and clean out marine database products no longer used by May 1, 2002. A series of product ID changes will be carried out, according to product category, throughout the year.

HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

National AHPS Products Team Forming: A national team is being formed to define a consistent core suite of AHPS graphics products. The Team's goal is to define a core suite of products and information that supports the full spectrum of hydrologic services from flash flooding to extended time frame river forecasts. Observed as well as forecast data and information will be included in the team's recommendations. The team is expected to provide recommendations on standards to ensure the content and format of the core suite of products and information are consistent across all NWS offices. Also, standards to ensure consistent and easy access to these products and information will be addressed.

The team consists of representatives from the regions and several offices at NWS Headquarters. Gregg Rishel is the Western Region representative and will act as the team leader.

The Status of AMBER: With the installation of AWIPS 5.1.2, several questions have recently come up about AMBER. The flash flood tool AMBER has been included as part of FFMP 2.0 in AWIPS 5.1.2. While the WFOs will have the software to run AMBER when AWIPS 5.1.2 is

installed, they will not have the necessary basin files. This means WFOs will not be able to utilize AMBER until the basin files are ready. To date, the only basin sets that have been completed for Western Region are for the Flagstaff and Tucson offices. NSSL has had difficulties with the basin delineation process in Western Region, due to the topography. HSD does not have a date of completion for the basin data sets. As soon as the basins are completed, HSD at Weather Service Headquarters will forward them to the appropriate WFOs. Any updates to the status of the basins will be forwarded to the offices as soon as WRH HSD is notified. If there are questions regarding AMBER, please contact Andrea Bair or Michelle Schmidt.

Basin Customization Course: In support of the flash flood tool AMBER, a basin customization course has been created. The course will be conducted at COMET, and is one week in duration. The course will focus on techniques to customize or localize the delineated basin data sets used by AMBER. One individual from each WFO should attend. It is highly recommended that the attendees for this course have some experience with ARCVIEW. The courses will be held during late summer and early fall. MICs should start considering who should attend the course for their office. COMET is adding an information page about this course to their Web site. It should be available in the next week or so. Questions about the course should be directed at Andrea Bair.

CLIMATE SERVICES

NOAA Climate Services Workshop: NOAA's Climate Observations and Services Program (COSP) sponsored a two-day workshop in January to discuss Climate Services within NOAA. Andrea Bair represented Western Region at the meeting. The goal for the workshop was to engage representatives from all NOAA offices currently involved in climate services, assessments, research, modeling, and prediction in developing a strategy for the future of Climate Services within NOAA. Groups were formed based on what part of climate services they were involved in. Participants in the groups discussed observations, analysis, modeling and prediction, assessment and research, and products and services related to climate services. The discussion results from the groups will be used in the development of a strategic plan for NOAA's Climate Services. More information about the NOAA Climate Services strategic plan will become available, and the NWS's role in the plan, as it is further developed in the coming months. If you would like more information about the workshop or (COSP), the group charged with developing the strategic plan for Climate Services, please visit the following website: <http://cosp.noaa.gov/>

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

GFE PCs: As promised during the Western Region MIC and IFPS Workshops, WRH-SSD acquired and configured high-end PCs with the FSL/GFE. The purpose in doing this is to allow the sites to get a quick start with installing, configuring and using the GFE and related software modules. The machines are configured similar to those at the Western Region IFPS Workshop to help each focal point start from a familiar set-up. We have included the Boise configuration and Smart Tools in a separate directory to help the focal point explore options that were presented at the workshop.

Olympics and Corporate Web Pages: WR/SSD has updated WFO Salt Lake City and NWS Western Region Headquarters Web pages to include the 2002 Olympic Winter Games information and the new corporate look. The pages are located at:

SLC-Forecast Office www.wrh.noaa.gov/Saltlake
 WR-Headquarters www.wrh.noaa.gov

Olympic Venues and FX-NET Support: WR/SSD and FSL (Sean Modine) have worked together to implement FX-NET, a system where AWIPS-like displays are available to a remote user on a PC and browser-like software. Western Region used FX-NET to support last year's test events. FX-NET is currently supporting eight remote Olympic venues. Pending approval by NWSHQ, WR would like to upgrade the fire weather ATMUS to FX-NET.

PACJET: PACJET 2002 is now underway along the west coast of the U.S. Research priorities for data collection this year include: assessing QuickScat satellite winds in the low-level jet, assessing the value of GOES rapid scan winds in mesoscale data assimilation, documenting the frequency of occurrence of non-bright band rain found in CALJET, and exploring the Weather-Climate Connection. Forecast application priorities in 2002 include: direct forecaster use of experimental data will be systematically evaluated, GOES Rapid-Scan Winds (the GWINDEX Experiment), the Rapid Update Cycle model (RUC), and experimental wind profiler array. More information on PACJET can be found at:

<http://www.etl.noaa.gov/programs/pacjet2002/>

Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop: The Pacific Northwest Weather Workshop will be held at the NOAA Western Regional Center campus at Sand Point in Seattle, Washington, on March 1 and 2, 2002. This annual conference, sponsored by the National Weather Service, the University of Washington, and the Puget Sound Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, covers recent developments in weather forecasting and observational technologies, major weather events of the past year, and topics dealing with the meteorology of the western U.S. The first day of the 2002 workshop will focus on aviation meteorology. Special sessions on observations and new technologies impacting aircraft operations, numerical weather prediction applications to aviation meteorology, and general aviation forecasting (including dissemination and user

requirements) will be held on Friday. Invited presentations will provide both a general overview and update. Submitted presentations (both oral and poster) will be used to complete Friday's agenda. The second day of the workshop will be open to all topics relevant to Western U.S. meteorology. Likely sessions will include case studies of major western U.S. weather events, updates on the local MM5 mesoscale modeling efforts, and early results from the PNW-2001 ozone study and the IMPROVE I/II microphysical field experiment. Also, on Saturday, there will be a poster session dealing with all western U.S. topics. Since posters allow substantial time for interaction and discussion, we encourage authors to consider the poster format. Pre-registration is required for all attendees. Visit our web site for the latest information and on-line registration at:

www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/PNW2002.html

For further information on registration or presentations, contact Clifford Mass, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Box 351640, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 (Telephone: 206-685-0190, e-mail: cliff@atmos.washington.edu) or Brad Colman/Chris Hill, NWS Forecast Office, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (Telephone: 206-526-6095, ext. 224/222; e-mail: brad.colman@noaa.gov and chris.hill@noaa.gov).

AWIPS Spotter Database: Harold Daley, WFO Las Vegas, has written an AWIPS Tech Note that outlines the process of configuring the "spotters.dat" file for use as an AWIPS overlay. It has been a useful function and fairly simple to set up. An email with the instructions has been sent out to all the offices in WRH via the Regional AWIPS mailing list.

New Technical Attachments: There are three new Technical Attachments (TA) this week. The first two TAs, "Elevated Thunderstorms Over the San Joaquin Valley Part 3: The 22 September 1999 Nocturnal Event." and "Significant Snow in the Sierra Nevada From Maritime Polar Origins" are both written by Alexander Tardy, Weather Forecast Office, Sacramento, CA. The third TA is entitled "GFE Forecast vs Raws Observations" and is authored by Mark Struthwolf, Weather Forecast Office, Salt Lake City, UT. The TAs are located on the National Weather Service web site at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov>, under "Technical Attachments."

New Book and Videos Added to the WRH Library: The book "The Snow Booklet: A Guide to the Science, Climatology, and Measurement of Snow in the United States" by Nolan J. Doesken and Arthur Judson, 1996, has been added to the WRH Library.

Listed below are videos that have just been added to the WRH Library:

1246 - "Adding Impact to Everyday Presentations" - 6 min - 1/2"
This video offers tips on how to enhance the look of your meeting

and presentation materials quickly, easily, and affordably.

1247 - "Fortune 500 Forum: How Market Leaders Keep Their Edge" - 78 min - 1/2"

1248 - "Preventing Sexual Harassment: A Management Responsibility" - 67 min - 1/2" This video is made up of three sections: I. "The Risk" (28:03), II. "Minimizing the Risk" (26:30), III. "A Shared Responsibility" (13:26).

2224 - "A Winning Balance" - 34 min - 1/2"

2225 - "Flashpoint When Values Collide" - 73 MIN - 1/2"

2226 - "A Costly Proposition" - 1/2"

2227 - "A Taste of Culture" - 1/2"

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Observing Program Conference: This regional conference is scheduled for Las Vegas, Nevada from April 29 to May 3, 2002. Remember, proposed agenda items for the conference are due to Harold Knocke in SOD by February 19.

SANS On-Line IT Security Essentials Training: Just a reminder that those systems administrators who signed up for the SANS Security Essentials On-Line training need to complete the training by their deadline, depending on the date each started. The course now combines the original Level One Security Essentials with the Information Security Kick Start course into one course and contains 36 modules and 36 on-line tests. There are also an optional practical exam and certification.

AWIPS Release 5.1.2 Progress: Ten Western Region sites have installed Release 5.1.2. All remaining sites are scheduled to install 5.1.2 before the end of February. If the beta testing for Maintenance Release 5.1.2.2 goes well, it should be available for distribution in a week or two. Once available, sites will need to stagger their installations so everyone is not doing it at the same time.

NOAA Mandatory Security Awareness Training: All WR and contractor personnel must complete the annual NOAA security awareness training by February 28, 2002. Please work through local designated WFO/RFC/CWSU training completion focal points and send Patrick Fahy, WRH SOD, an e-mail when the entire staff at the WFO/RFC/CWSU has completed the on-line NOAA security awareness training. The training module can be found at the following Web site:

<https://www.csp.noaa.gov/noaa/ITSAC2001/index.htm>

ASOS: Processor Upgrade, Dewpoint Replacement Sensor, Software Version 2.6A: The processor Upgrade and software version 2.6A were successfully installed at Stanley (SNT), ID; Boise (BOI), ID; and Aurora (UAO), OR. The dewpoint replacement sensor was successfully installed at SNT. There are a few problems in the software that may delay installation at additional sites. When these problems are resolved, however, Campo (CZZ), CA will be the next Western Region site to be upgraded.

SAWS: FAA System Designed as Backup for ASOS: The Stand-Alone Weather System (SAWS) is a stand-alone observing system (containing wind, temperature/dewpoint, and pressure sensors) being installed by the FAA at Level "C" airports only. Level "C" airports have a tower, but no contract observers. The controllers are responsible for augmenting and backing up the ASOS. The SAWS is designed as a replacement for the current backup equipment used by airports. The SAWS implementation has just started and will take about two years to complete.

Communication Transfer: Seven ASOSs located at seven WFOs in Western Region are scheduled to have their communications transferred to the FAA communications system (ADAS) between April and July of 2002. The FAA will be contacting the seven WFOs affected (BOI, GW, TFX, MFR, MSO, PDT, and PIH) in the next few months to plan for the communications transfer. This communications transfer will facilitate the transfer of backup and augmentation responsibilities from the NWS to the FAA, which is scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2002.

RADAR: The Open Radar Product Generator (ORPG): The ORPG will be installed at Santa Ana, CA and Portland, OR the week of February 4 and is scheduled to be installed at San Diego, CA and Seattle, WA the week of February 11, 2002.

Interim Policies on Physical and IT Security: New interim security policies have been implemented at NWS offices throughout the country. The policies were distributed electronically to expedite implementation. Basically, the policies instruct officers on safeguarding sensitive and valuable property and IT resources.

Updates to Safety and Health Procedures: Several page changes have been issued to Engineering Handbook No. 15, Occupational Safety and Health. These changes are a combination of corrections, clarifications, and updates resulting from program changes and recent legal interpretations. All field offices should have received these changes.